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Letter dated 29 July 2016 from the Permanent Representatives of Spain and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Spain and the United Kingdom, as co-chairs of the Security Council Informal Expert Group on Women, Peace and Security, have the honour to transmit herewith a summary note of the meeting held on 29 February 2016 on the situation of women, peace and security in Mali (see annex).

We should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Román **Oyarzun**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Spain to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Matthew **Rycroft**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom to the United Nations

16-13702 (E) 090816

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Annex to the letter dated 29 July 2016 from the Permanent Representatives of Spain and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Security Council Informal Expert Group on Women, Peace and Security

Summary of meeting on Mali, 29 February 2016

On 29 February, the Informal Expert Group on Women, Peace and Security was briefed by the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General, United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), Koen Davidse, and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) country representative in Mali, accompanied by the heads of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and the United Nations Children's Fund and senior mission staff working in the areas of gender affairs, women's protection, stabilization, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, civil affairs and political affairs.

The political situation in Mali at the time of the meeting was characterized by limited progress in the implementation of the peace agreement and delays in the implementation of key provisions.

The Deputy Special Representative provided the context of the situation for women and girls in Mali, where the rate of female genital mutilation is nearly 90 per cent and the rate of child marriage is over 50 per cent. In the World Bank list of fragile countries, Mali ranks 50 of 52. The Deputy Special Representative noted that women's participation in the peace negotiations had been extremely low and there was only one woman currently sitting on the committees set up to implement the peace agreement (including on disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and security sector reform). He highlighted the need for capacity-building programmes to increase the meaningful participation of women. As for the mission's own gender composition, the troop- and police-contributing countries are performing poorly with regard to deploying women to MINUSMA, and MINUSMA is looking at improving the gender balance among national civilian staff.

The UN-Women country representative in Mali shared research on female relatives' influence on combatants with regard to stopping the fighting, laying down arms and reintegrating back into communities. Malian women from civil society have mobilized extensively, built coalitions and articulated their specific demands, including: a 30 per cent quota (announced by the government last November) in relation to all national institutions and the launch in January 2016 of Mali's second national action plan on women, peace and security supported by UN-Women and MINUSMA, 15 per cent earmarked funding and 10 per cent of profits from the exploitation of natural resources. The disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process being planned risks overlooking women associated with the armed groups. Messages against gender equality in social media are being used to radicalize and recruit young people in the north, and jihadists are winning the communications battle against women's rights, in both urban and rural spaces.

A representative of UN-Women in New York, as secretariat of the Informal Expert Group, provided a list of recommendations related to furthering the implementation of the women, peace and security agenda in Mali, through MINUSMA, the Government and the Security Council, particularly in the light of the Council mission to Mali, the mission's strategic review and its mandate renewal.

In response to questions from Security Council members, United Nations participants in New York and Bamako added the following points:

- On the mission: MINUSMA is recruiting a senior gender adviser, a post currently occupied by a Member State secondment, which will move to the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General soon, and there is a gender task force of focal points in all substantive units and a working group on monitoring, analysis and reporting arrangements for conflict-related sexual violence. All mission staff have received mandatory training on gender and peace operations, since July, and there are separate trainings for the military contingents and specific trainings on conflict-related sexual violence. The mission is awaiting guidance from Headquarters on consolidation of human rights functions, including women's protection. The responsibility for implementing gender equality obligations lies with the Special Representative and the whole mission, not just the gender adviser, and senior leadership must take into account the accountability indicators on women, peace and security proposed by the peace and security reviews.

- On protection issues and conflict-related sexual violence: Although the United Nations has established mechanisms to enhance the collection, verification, documentation and analysis of information on conflict-related sexual violence, the lack of access owing to increased insecurity constitutes a major impediment to documenting cases of conflict-related sexual violence. Progress against impunity is very slow, including with regard to the specific cases of conflict-related sexual violence filed with the authorities in 2014 and 2015. Civil society organizations registered the complaint that the first trial against a Malian defendant is focused on destruction of historical monuments, but it should have also included forced marriage. There can be no amnesty for conflict-related sexual violence, and it must be monitored as potential breaches of the ceasefire and taken into account in security arrangements, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and transitional justice. Four Malian parties are listed in the annexes to the report of the Secretary-General, and three of them have been listed by the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015) concerning Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities. The Deputy Special Representative underlined the need to reinforce this sanctions committee. Violations of women's rights in cities with a major presence of terrorist groups were highlighted. There are acute shortfalls in services for survivors, and survivors need to receive reparations and livelihood support as part of post-conflict recovery.

- Humanitarian situation: MINUSMA underlined that only 4 per cent of humanitarian projects have women and girls as the principal beneficiaries. A lack of adequate financial resources was mentioned on several occasions by the Deputy Special Representative.

- On disarmament, demobilization and reintegration: Existing policy and guidelines on gender and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, including good practices from other contexts, must be applied. The mission is waiting for an inclusive composition on the lists provided by parties. Three cantonment sites have been approved for construction, and the camp layouts are gender-responsive.

- On goals for the next 6-12 months: The Deputy Special Representative suggested focusing on one external goal, women's representation in post-agreement committees, and one internal goal, gender balance in the mission, starting with national staff in particular. As noted by the head of OCHA in Mali, in negotiations in Ouagadougou and Algiers, there also were very few women among international organizations, and the international community should be a role model in that regard. There is a need for a coordination strategy among the mission, the United Nations country team and other international actors, such as the European Union military mission to contribute to the training of the Malian armed forces, for the capacity-building of Malian security forces on gender-related aspects.

The co-chairs ended the meeting with a reminder of the collective effort needed to make progress in these areas. They highlighted the importance of communicating increased information on the implementation of women, peace and security agenda in Mali to the Security Council through the regular briefings and reporting, as called for in Security Council resolutions 2122 (2013) and 2242 (2015). Mali would be back on the agenda of the Informal Expert Group in the second half of 2016.

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Letter dated 29 July 2016 from the Permanent Representatives of Spain and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Spain and the United Kingdom, as co-chairs of the Security Council Informal Expert Group on Women, Peace and Security, have the honour to transmit herewith a summary note of the meeting held on 29 April 2016 on the situation of women, peace and security in Iraq (see annex).

We should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Román **Oyarzun**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Spain to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Matthew **Rycroft**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom to the United Nations

16-13708 (E) 110816

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Annex to the letter dated 29 July 2016 from the Permanent Representatives of Spain and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Security Council Informal Expert Group on Women, Peace and Security

Summary of meeting on Iraq, 29 April 2016

On 29 April, the Informal Expert Group on Women, Peace and Security was briefed by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Iraq, Ján Kubiš, and the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Iraq, Lise Grande, from United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) headquarters in Baghdad and the United Nations Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights, Kathryn Gilmore, from Geneva.

The Special Representative noted that the situation of women in Iraq had deteriorated sharply and emphasized four elements in that regard: (a) there was low participation of women in crucial bodies, such as those working on national reconciliation, and they had little influence in bodies where they have relatively higher participation, such as parliament; (b) widespread protection needs existed with regard to women from minority communities, in particular displaced and refugee women and those in areas controlled by Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL); (c) the government reform process that had begun a year and a half ago had shown some positive signs, such as general messages of inclusiveness and the adoption of the national action plan on resolution 1325 (2000), but the Ministry of Women had been abolished and increased representation of women in the new cabinet appeared unlikely; and (d) the integrated gender task force of the United Nations, led by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and the UNAMI gender adviser, was determined and motivated but could do little in such a difficult environment.

The Deputy Special Representative added that women shoulder the responsibility of reestablishing the household when returning to areas newly liberated from ISIL, yet women did not have formal representation in the political process and are excluded from the process of negotiating or receiving the compensation packages for returnees administered by the government. This process is managed by four command cells chaired by the government and composed of members of the security forces, tribal sheikhs, imams and notable members of the community — none of the cells include a single woman. Mechanisms set up to provide front-line services to women and girls fleeing conflict-affected areas, such as the United Nations Population Fund mobile units, are oversubscribed and the most underfunded component of the humanitarian efforts. In the next six months, an additional 2.2 to 2.5 million newly displaced persons are expected, and such persons are often seen by the government and the communities as having supported ISIL. The screening process will extract many men and boys, leading to family separation and the potential for abuse of women.

The Deputy High Commissioner provided a briefing on her recent visit to Iraq and noted the patterns of sexual violence against and sexual slavery of women and girls from minority communities, as well as increased domestic violence, early

marriage, female genital mutilation and so-called honour killings. Large numbers of Iraqi men and women are illegally detained, often without charge or for political motives, and often subjected to torture and ill-treatment, including sexual abuse.

A representative of UN-Women, the secretariat of the group, provided a list of recommendations related to furthering the implementation of the women, peace and security agenda in Iraq, through UNAMI, the Government of Iraq and the Security Council.

The representative of the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict noted the use of sexual violence as a tactic to increase revenue and strengthen the recruitment base through ransom payments and human trafficking; sexual violence committed by pro-government militias; and the need for high-level political commitment from the Government of Iraq on this issue and sufficient staffing capacity in the mission.

In response to questions from Member States, participants in Baghdad and New York noted the following:

- The current report on UNAMI does not contain much information on women, peace and security, and it is difficult to obtain gender-specific information and sex-disaggregated statistics, but the mission will work on enhancing that in the next report.
- In the absence of a Ministry of Women, the gender portfolio in the government is split between Foreign Affairs and Justice, which is inadequate.
- The language of the mission's mandate should be more explicit and specific about women's political participation and place pressure on the Government of Iraq to take action to ensure that participation and the adoption of several key pending draft laws, such as on family protection.
- The Government of Iraq should facilitate the adoption of a General Assembly resolution to protect women and girls from religious and ethnic minorities, proposed by the High Council of Women Affairs in Kurdistan.
- Notwithstanding significant representation of women in parliament, they have little influence on what is put to a vote, given that such matters are pushed through parliamentary committees and are decided by political blocs, in which women have very little representation.
- The government has funded discussions about the national action plan but not its implementation. The international community has a collective responsibility to ensure funding. Member States should make their World Bank loans conditional upon guaranteeing earmarked funding for the plan.
- The United Nations Development Programme flagship stabilization programme (cash-for-work programmes) has a dedicated window for women's empowerment, but few women participate owing to resistance from the communities.
- A total of 10 per cent of women are widows that must provide for their families, whereas less than 15 per cent of Iraqi women participate in the labour force. This leads to negative coping mechanisms, such as sexual exploitation or child marriage. Without identity documents, women cannot access services, and the large economic empowerment programmes and cash-for-work

programmes are not aimed at them. Women's economic empowerment will require more imaginative modalities of engagement, such as self-employment.

- The draft bill on family protection has elements to regulate shelters, but after being submitted to parliament in 2015, it was sent back for review given that it was considered anti-Sharia, and nothing has been advanced since then. Shelters are often linked to misperceptions among communities. Family protection units are closing down because of the fiscal crisis.

- The women's movement in Iraq is vibrant, and there is much potential for coalition-building and transcending sectarian lines with regard to the women's rights agenda.

In conclusion, the Special Representative committed to reiterate to the Prime Minister of Iraq the importance of including more women in his cabinet and other government bodies, including on national reconciliation; enhance the information and analysis on women, peace and security in the next report of UNAMI to the Security Council and to highlight these issues in upcoming briefings; and strengthen the capacity of the mission with regard to gender and women's protection, such as through the deployment of a women's protection adviser. He asked for the support of Member States to make a new budgetary post possible in the coming months.

The co-chairs of the Informal Expert Group reiterated their thanks to the Special Representative and encouraged him to raise women, peace and security issues in the subsequent week's Security Council consultations and identify some specific goals related to the topics discussed that could be achieved over the next 6-12 months and beyond, and on which the Informal Expert Group would follow up. A second, more focused Informal Expert Group meeting on Iraq will take place before the end of 2016.

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Identical letters dated 4 August 2016 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I should like draw to your attention the following:

Further to my numerous letters concerning the provision by the Jordanian regime of various forms of support to armed terrorist groups in Syria, including facilitating the entry of trucks carrying weapons for those groups through a number of Syrian border crossings in clear violation of the relevant Security Council counter-terrorism resolutions, including resolutions 2170 (2014), 2178 (2014), 2199 (2015) and 2253 (2015), I wish to bring to your attention the following:

The Jordanian regime has facilitated the entry of a number of trucks carrying weapons for armed terrorist groups through a number of border crossings, as follows:

- During the first half of July 2016, armed terrorist groups brought a large number of arms shipments into Dar'a and Qunaytirah governorates. Those shipments consisted of anti-armour missiles and ground-to-ground missiles that can be fired from mobile launchers mounted on four-wheel drive vehicles, as well as the latest communications equipment.
- At 2145 hours on 19 July 2016, armed terrorist groups brought five containers from Jordan into Syria via the Abu Sharshuh border crossing in the direction of Bi'r al-Rusay'i in the Suwayda' desert.
- At 2105 hours on 22 July 2016, armed terrorist groups brought four containers from Jordan into Syria via the Abu Sharshuh border crossing in the direction of Bi'r al-Rusay'i in the Suwayda' desert.
- At 0230 hours on 23 July 2016, armed terrorist groups brought eight containers from Jordan into Syria via the Abu Sharshuh border crossing in the direction of Bi'r al-Rusay'i in the Suwayda' desert.
- At 1845 hours on 23 July 2016, armed terrorist groups brought four trucks from Jordan into Syria in the Zalaf Dam area in the direction of Bi'r al-Rusay'i in the Suwayda' desert.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic once again calls on the Security Council to assume its responsibilities and act firmly on both this information and the information we have provided previously on the Jordanian regime's continued support for armed terrorist groups active throughout Syrian territory, which constitutes a threat to security and stability in the region and the world.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Security Council

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5 August 2016

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Letter dated 4 August 2016 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit to you, and through you, to the esteemed members of the Security Council a statement issued by the Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission (JMEC) Partners Group on South Sudan at its third High-level Meeting in Khartoum on 31 July 2016 (see annex).

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Omer Dahab Fadl **Mohamed**
Permanent Representative

16-13647 (E) 100816

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 4 August 2016 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Statement of the third High-level Meeting of the Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission Partners Group on South Sudan

The Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission (JMEC) Partners Group on South Sudan held its third High-level Meeting in Khartoum on 31 July 2016 and discussed the current situation in South Sudan and what the international community can do to convince the warring factions to earnestly implement the Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan.

Earlier this month, large-scale armed clashes broke out in Juba, the capital of South Sudan, and we have received reports today from the Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements Monitoring Mechanism (CTSAMM) of renewed fighting in areas around Juba and the Equatorias, and in other areas of South Sudan. This fighting violates the peace agreement, and we are deeply concerned that the situation in South Sudan could further deteriorate. The Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission Partners Group on South Sudan therefore:

- Condemns in the strongest terms the recent armed confrontation between the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) in Government and SPLA in Opposition. Operations targeting opposition leadership risk violence on an unprecedented scale and must stop immediately.
- Calls for a full investigation and accountability for those who bear responsibility for violations of the ceasefire and atrocities that have been committed. We are shocked and grieved by the loss of life and the atrocities that have been reported, including well-documented reports of attacks on civilians. The fighting has also caused deaths and injuries among the peacekeepers of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS). We express our strongest condemnation regarding these attacks. Those responsible for war crimes, crimes against humanity and other violations of international law will be held accountable.
- Extends its condolences for the lives lost and sympathy to the injured and the affected families.
- Urges South Sudan's leaders to place the security and needs of South Sudan's people above their own political considerations. The legitimate rights of international partners in South Sudan should be respected and protected.
- Takes note of the recommendations of the Intergovernmental Authority for Development and the African Union Summits, including with regard to the possibility of the deployment of a regional protection force.
- Urges the Government of South Sudan to accept assistance in creating a security environment in Juba that will facilitate an inclusive and political process and a return to the implementation of the peace agreement.
- Calls for the implementation of the security provisions of the peace agreement, including the immediate cantonment of forces throughout the country and implementation of the transitional security arrangements.

- Is deeply concerned about the humanitarian situation in South Sudan. The fighting in recent weeks has exacerbated what was already a near-catastrophic situation. South Sudan's economy is near collapse and the people of South Sudan cannot withstand continued conflict. We appeal to the international community to take the necessary steps to continue to address the dire humanitarian situation, and urge the Government of South Sudan to ensure full, safe and unhindered access of humanitarian workers and timely delivery of humanitarian assistance to populations in need and put in place measures to provide protection and non-interference with humanitarian equipment and supplies. Most critically, we reiterate that the fighting must stop.

- Condemns in the strongest possible terms the continuing obstruction of the CTSAMM-Monitoring and Verification Teams and UNMISS from implementing their tasks and mandates, and calls upon the Government of South Sudan to issue the necessary orders to guarantee CTSAMM and UNMISS freedom of movement and to respect the status of forces agreement between South Sudan and UNMISS.

- Supports President Mogae's work, his mandate and the authority of JMEC, and will continue to give support to JMEC in discharging its duties. We will not tolerate threats to the independent functioning of JMEC as provided for by the peace agreement. We urge JMEC to fully utilize its mandate under the peace agreement to recommend corrective action in the event of non-implementation of the mandate and tasks of the Transitional Government of National Unity and to recommend remedial actions to IGAD, the African Union Peace and Security Council, and the United Nations Security Council. We recommend that the international community consider what measures might be necessary to ensure that the recommendations of JMEC are implemented and provide for its safety and ability to operate.

The JMEC Partners Group will stay in close contact through its representatives in Juba, and support JMEC and all parties concerned in South Sudan in their efforts to ensure effective implementation of the peace agreement and an end to the fighting that has placed all South Sudanese in danger.